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ART AND ARTISTS IN NEW ORLEANS

DURING
THE LAST CENTURY

BY
ISAAC MONROE CLINE

REPRINTED FROM BIENNIAL REPORT,
LOUISIANA STATE MUSEUM.

1922

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Frequent and prolonged visits to New Orleans by the best American portrait painters of their time, especially during the period prior to 1850, would indicate that the people of this city were not only devotees of the fine arts, but they made this one of the art centers of America. The men who came here were all painters of merit, and some of them stand out to-day as great artists. Many of the residents of French and Spanish ancestry brought fine paintings and family heirlooms with them to this country. It is also a fact not generally known, that when Napoleon's followers came to New Orleans after his downfall, they brought their art treasures with them and attempted to recoup here. A residence was built for Napoleon at Chartres and St. Louis streets by Nicholas Girod, and the ship "Seraphine" was built and equipped with the object of rescuing Napoleon from St. Helena. Under command of Capt. Bossier and Dominique You, the expedition set sail with this purpose, but returned when signalled by a French merchantman that Napoleon had died May 5, 1821.

The art treasures brought back by these people remained here, as a legacy to a new land. After Louisiana became the property of the United States, the English-speaking people who came here from the Eastern and Northern States brought with them the portraits of their parents and their relatives from the brushes of the best artists of the times. New Orleans and the surrounding country thus became rich in paintings of a high order, and especially in early American art.

In 1847 the most important and choice collection of paintings which had been exhibited in the United States up to that time was shown in the ballroom of the Saint Louis Hotel, at New Orleans. These paintings, more than 350 in number, had been selected under the supervision of the best European art experts of that period and were brought here for the purpose of founding a national gallery. The project fell through and the paintings were sold and found their way into all parts of

the United States. In this way they have become a factor in our art development. The late Worthington Whitredge, in a letter shortly before his death, stated that he had received much inspiration in art from some of these paintings which went to Cincinnati.

On February 26, 1859, the James Robb Collection, housed in the residence at Washington avenue and Camp street, was sold. There were in this collection seventy paintings, some of great merit. Robb had purchased fifteen of these paintings from the Joseph Bonaparte sale at Bordentown, New Jersey, September, 1845. Other paintings, American and European, were added with good selective judgment.

In the following years, war and yellow fever stayed the progress of art in New Orleans for the time being. Many fine paintings have, during the last sixty years, found their way into the great Eastern collections. There were, however, men of artistic tastes and talents, such as ~~A. L.~~ Tissot and Durant de Ponte, who continued their support of fine arts during the periods of adversity. Notwithstanding the loss or transfer of many fine paintings to other cities, New Orleans can still boast of numerous fine examples. The following is a list of some of the distinguished artists who resided here or came to New Orleans and painted prior to 1850, about whom data could be found:

JACQUES AMANS: (sometimes spelled Amaus). Born in 1801, died in Paris in 1888. Painted portraits in New Orleans from 1828 till 1856. Studio, 1838, 163 Royal street; 1840, 184 Royal street; 1854-1856, Bienville and Customhouse streets. Amans is a forceful painter concerning whose work nothing is known except the portraits painted in New Orleans. His work compares favorably with the best portrait painters of to-day, and the style and character of his work indicates that he was 75 to 100 years ahead of his time.

JOHN JAMES AUDUBON: Born in San Domingo, 1785. Died in New York, January 27, 1851. Although best known as an ornithologist, he was a good portrait painter. He was in New Orleans in 1821 to 1823. In 1824 he was in Philadelphia and received instruction from Sully and Vanderlyn in portrait

painting; in the latter part of 1824 he went down the Ohio and Mississippi rivers to New Orleans, making oil and crayon portraits en route. He remained in Louisiana until 1826, when he went to Europe. He executed a bust portrait of Lafayette in crayon at New Orleans in 1825.

LOUIS A. COLLAS: Nothing could be found regarding the life and work of this artist except that he painted miniatures and larger portraits in oil of a superior quality, in and about New Orleans, from 1820 till 1828. He is listed in the directory 1822 as portrait and miniature painter, 44 St. Peter street; in 1824, 81 St. Peter street.

Amateur — DUVAL: Painted miniatures in New Orleans at the beginning of the last century. A portrait of Governor Claiborne by Duval is often reproduced and copied. He also painted Lelande de Ferrier.

RALPH E. W. EARL: Son of Ralph Earl, the well-known portrait painter, who died in 1801; was born in England while his father was studying art in that country, and came to the United States with his father as a child. He studied first with his father, who had become a distinguished portrait painter, then going to London in 1809, where he continued his art studies, and in Paris in 1814. He returned from Europe in 1815, arriving in Georgia, from whence he went to Tennessee, where he married Miss Caffery, a niece of General Andrew Jackson. He painted in New Orleans and died there in 1837. He was buried at the Hermitage.

F. GODEFROID: All that we can find regarding this artist is that he was the father of another artist named Godefroid. In 1807 he painted a portrait of merit of M. Fortin, master of a Masonic Lodge, which is now in the Louisiana State Museum. In 1809 he had a studio in South Burgundy street, near Canal.

LOUIS GODEFROY: Nothing is known regarding this artist except that we find him in the New Orleans directory: "Studio as painter, peintre, 1824, at 139 Tchoupitoulas street," and 1830 at "31 Poydras, corner of Tchoupitoulas street."

HENRY INMAN: Born in Utica, N. Y., October 10, 1801, died in New York City, January 17, 1846. Inman served seven

years apprenticeship to Jarvis and was with him in New Orleans, painting portraits, 1818 to 1820. Inman attained distinction as a portrait, landscape and genre painter. He was president of the National Academy of Design, New York, 1824-1825.

JOHN WESLEY JARVIS: Born in South Shields, England, 1780, died in New York, N. Y., 1840. Nephew of the Rev. John Wesley, Jarvis was one of the first artists in the United States to give attention to the study of art-anatomy. Thomas Sully was assistant to Jarvis for a short period, 1807-1808, with a studio in New York City. Commencing about 1816 Jarvis took up his residence during the winter months in New Orleans until 1834. He had a studio in 1822 at No. 9 Custom-house street; in 1830, at 48 Canal street. He was a portrait painter of the first rank, but at times slighted his work.

MATTHEW HARRIS JOUETT: Born April 22, 1787, and died August 10, 1827. Was born and educated in Kentucky. He commenced painting in 1810. Was paymaster in the U. S. army, 1813-1815. In 1817, Jouett traveled on horseback from Kentucky to Boston and became the pupil of Gilbert Stuart. From 1817 till his death in 1827, he spent his winters in New Orleans and in the towns along the Mississippi river, painting portraits. He painted Lafayette from life in 1824. Some of his portraits rank with those of Stuart. Jouett is listed in the 1824 New Orleans directory, portrait painter, peintre en miniature, 49 Canal street.

FERDINAND LATIZAR: Painted splendid portraits in New Orleans between 1790 and 1820. Among his portraits still in existence are those of Don Andres Almonaster y Roxas and Silvun St. Amand.

A. D. LANSOT: Nothing is known regarding this artist except that he painted portraits in New Orleans from 1835 to about 1850. The style of his work indicates that he was a pupil of Amans, but nothing we have seen compares with Amans' work. Studio: 1843, 165 Royal street; 1846, 33 Toulouse street.

ELIAB METCALF: Born in Franklin, Mass., February 5, 1785, and died January 15, 1834. He studied under Samuel Waldo. Metcalf resided and painted portraits in New Orleans, 1818-1823. His portraits were excellent. He appears in the 1822 New Orleans directory as portrait and miniature painter, 25 Magazine street, above Common.

SAMUEL FINLEY BREEZE MORSE: Born in Charlestown, Mass., April 27, 1791; died April 2, 1872. He was the inventor of the electric telegraph, but a fact not generally known is that Morse was among the best of the early American portrait painters. He studied under Washington Allston and at the Royal Academy in London. He lived and painted portraits in Charleston, S. C., from 1816 till about 1820, and during this period he certainly did not overlook New Orleans, which at that time was the Mecca of American artists.

THOMAS SULLY: Born in England June 19, 1783; brought by his parents to Charleston, S. C., in 1792. He has been styled the American Lawrence, but he is really the American Sully, showing the influence also of Stuart and Jarvis. Sully visited the South and painted portraits during the early part of the last century, and was undoubtedly in Louisiana. Portraits of residents of Louisiana and Mississippi dated 1815 and 1818 indicate that Sully must have made a visit down the Ohio and Mississippi to this section. Sully died in Philadelphia, November 5, 1872. He left behind him 2017 portraits in oil, 65 miniatures, and 549 subject paintings.

J. B. SEL: Painted good portraits in miniature and oil between 1820 and 1830. His portrait of Governor A. B. Roman, is in the Louisiana State Museum.

JOHN VANDERLYN: Born in Kingston, New York, October, 1776, died there in the autumn of 1852. Studied in London, Paris and Rome, and had an international reputation as an historical and portrait painter. He was in New Orleans more than once between 1820 and 1830, and perhaps later. He constructed a building here and exhibited his panorama "Versailles," and probably others in New Orleans; during this time he also painted portraits.

JEAN JOSEPH VAUDECHAMP: Born in France, 1790, died there in 1866. He exhibited in the Salon, Paris, 1817, and afterward. He resided in New Orleans for several years during the 30s and painted many fine portraits. In 1833 he had a studio as portrait painter at 147 Royal street.

JEAN FRANCOIS VALLEE: Nothing is known of this artist except that he was painting fine miniatures in New Orleans, about 1815. At that time he painted a miniature of General Andrew Jackson which the general pronounced the best portrait of him extant, and he presented it to Edward Livingston.

SAMUEL LOVETT WALDO: Born in 1783, died February 16, 1861. Studied in London with West and Copley and at the Royal Academy during 1806 to 1809. Waldo ranks with the best of the American portrait painters. He visited Charleston, S. C., and other Southern cities, and dated portraits in Louisiana indicate that he was here about 1833. William Jewett was associated with Waldo for several years.

**A Partial List of the Painters Who Have Contributed Materially to the Advancement of Art in New Orleans
Since 1850 Is as Follows:**

WILLIAM H. BAKER: Born in 1825, died in Brooklyn, N. Y., May 29, 1875. He was brought up in mercantile pursuits in New Orleans; he devoted his spare time to the study of art and became a portrait and genre painter. He had a studio from 1853 to 1861 at 123 Canal street; moved to New York in 1865, where he taught art and painted portraits and ideal subjects. He was a painstaking and conscientious artist, but he never achieved greatness.

FRANCISCO BERNARD: Nothing is known of this artist except that he painted portraits and landscapes of merit in New Orleans at intervals from 1848 until 1867, having a studio in the latter year at 146 Customhouse street.

HENRY BYRD: A portrait painter of some merit; lived in New Orleans in the '40s and '50s. He traveled through the country, painting portraits, but in 1867 he took up his abode in the vicinity of Hilary and Commercial streets, New Orleans, where he continued to paint portraits until 1883, about the time of his death.

WILLIAM H. BUCK: Born in Norway in 1840, died in New Orleans September 5, 1888. He was a clerk in a cotton office before he became a professional painter. He studied under Clague and also in Boston; opened a studio as a professional painter in 1880 at 26 Carondelet street, where he remained until his death. He painted Louisiana landscapes with considerable force and feeling. Many of his paintings are highly meritorious, but some show carelessness in execution.

GEORGE CATLIN: Born in Wilkesbarre, Pa., in 1796; died in Jersey City, N. J., December 23, 1872. Catlin is noted for his portraits of American Indians. He lived and painted in Louisiana in the late '40s and early '50s.

RICHARD CLAGUE: Born in Louisiana in 1816, died in New Orleans, February 23, 1878. He studied with Ernest Hebert and at Ecole des Beaux Arts, Paris. Clague has left us many landscapes portraying in a poetic and forceful manner street scenes in New Orleans and Louisiana scenery.

GEORGE D. COULON: Coulon had a studio as a portrait painter at 103 Conde street in 1850, and continued to paint in New Orleans for fifty years, with studios in various parts of the city. His last residence, given shortly before his demise, was at 1536 North Claiborne street, in 1904.

JOHN GENIN: Born in France, 1830, died in New Orleans, October 19, 1895. He had a studio as portrait, historical and genre painter at 150 Canal street in 1876; he resided and painted in New Orleans for the next twenty years, and at the time of his death had a studio at 233 Royal street.

CHARLES GIROUX: He had a studio at 90 Baronne street in 1882 and 1883. He painted landscapes good in color and pleasing in tone and composition.

R. GSCHWINDT: Painted some excellent portraits in New Orleans in 1859 and 1860, having a studio at 82 Camp street. No data could be found regarding his birth or death.

LUIS GRANER: Born in Barcelona, Spain, 1867. Came to America in 1910, and lived and painted in New Orleans from 1914 to 1922, at intervals, and therefore can be classed as an American painter. Received medals at Barcelona, Madrid, Berlin, Paris, and in many other places. In 1904 he was made a member of the "Society National des Beaux Arts," France. Represented in art museums, Madrid and Barcelona, Spain; Brussels, Belgium; Bordeaux, France; Berlin, Germany; and in the National Museums of Brazil, Chile, Argentina, and Uruguay, and in the Papal gallery, Rome. Portrait, genre and landscape painter of great versatility. His work possesses those qualities of technique, color, simplicity and dignity which place him in the front rank of painters. His influence on art in New Orleans may be judged by the fact that some two hundred of his paintings found permanent homes in New Orleans, during his sojourn here.

GEORGE PETER ALEXANDER HEALY: Born in Boston, Mass., July 15, 1813, died in Chicago, Ill., in 1894. Portrait, historical and genre painter with an international reputation. Painted in New Orleans in 1852 and 1861, residing in the latter year in Claiborne street, near St. Louis street.

GEORGE INNESS: Born 1825, died 1894. One of the world's great landscape painters. Inness was in New Orleans and did some painting in the latter part of the '80s or early '90s.

E. B. D. FABRINO JULIO: Born in the Island of St. Helena, of Italian father and Scotch mother, in 1843; died in Georgia, September 15, 1879. Historical, portrait, genre and landscape painter of distinction. Julio came to the United States in 1861, and to New Orleans in the latter part of the '60s, where he resided the greater part of the time during the remainder of his life, except he spent 1872 in Paris as a student of Leon Bonat. His "Diana," "Harvest Scene," and several Louisiana landscapes, were exhibited at the Centennial at Philadelphia in 1876. "The Last Meeting of Lee and Jackson" is

his best known painting. He was a rapid and skillful draughtsman and an original artist who has not received the recognition due him.

WILLIAM KEITH: Born in Aberdeenshire, Scotland, 1833, died in Berkely, California, 1911. Landscape and portrait painter, with great individuality and a style altogether his own. He varied his work to suit the effects and the subjects in hand. His fame rests on his portrayal of the poetic effects of landscape on the Pacific slope. He occupies a place in the front rank of landscape painters. He resided in New Orleans for a while in the early '80s, and married here. Many of his paintings found homes in New Orleans.

EDWARD LIVINGSTON: Painted poetic landscapes, pleasing in color, both in oil and water colors, during the '80s and '90s. He was in business in New Orleans and painted because of his love for nature.

THEODORE S. MOISE: Painted portraits and animals in New Orleans from 1850, having a studio at 51 Canal street until 1884, when he had a studio at 45 Baronne street.

ANDREAS MOLINARY: Born in Gibraltar in 1847, died in New Orleans, September 11, 1915. Molinary came to New Orleans as a young man with talent and full of vigor. His contributions to art both as painter and teacher are worthy of note. He was equally good in portrait, genre and landscape. He was a member of the art jury of the Delgado Museum of Art from its opening until his death.

BERNARD MOSES: Listed in the directories for many years as photographer, he also painted portraits.

WILLIAM NEUSER: Born in Germany in 1837. died in New Orleans, September 30, 1902. Studio, 342 St. Charles street, in 1861, and at the time of his death at 734 Magazine street. Neuser painted portraits, genre and some landscapes.

AUGUST NORIERI: (Sometimes spelled Noriea). Italian descent; born about 1860, died in Louisiana about 1888. Norieri had great talent for landscape and river scenery. His reputation rests on poetic visions of river landscape with the noted

river palaces and freighters which plied the Mississippi river during his time; these he has left to Louisiana as a legacy illustrating bygone days. He painted also fairly good portraits.

ENOCH WOOD PERRY: Born in Boston, Mass., July 31, 1831, died in New York, December 14, 1915. Perry came to New Orleans in 1848; went to Europe and studied in Dusseldorf and Paris, 1852 and 1853; then in Rome and Venice, 1856 to 1858, returning to the United States in the latter year. In 1860 he had a studio at 108 St. Charles street, New Orleans. At this time he painted the splendid life-size portrait of United States Senator John Slidell, now in the Louisiana State Museum (donated by Dr. I. M. Cline).^{*} In 1861 he painted Jefferson Davis, using the map of the Confederate States as a background. Perry then traveled extensively and was a famous international portrait painter, having painted many of the great men of his time. Among his important figure compositions is "Signing the Ordinance of Secession of Louisiana," painted in 1861.

V. PIERSON: An English animal painter; was in New Orleans in the '70s, and probably later. He worked in conjunction with Poincy, Moise, and probably others, painting animals along with human figures.

P. POINCY: Born in New Orleans in 1833, died in New Orleans in 1909. Poincy studied at the Ecole des Beaux Arts, Paris, and at Julien's Academy, Paris. He was a portrait and genre painter of merit, and his street scenes are well executed, full of poetry and charm. As a teacher and painter he had much to do with furthering interest in local art.

A. G. POWERS: Nothing is known of this artist except that he resided in New Orleans, having a studio in 1850 at 13 St. Charles street, and in 1861 at 142 Canal street. He painted good portraits, but in the commonplace manner.

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN REINHART: Born in 1829. Had an international reputation as portrait, historical and genre painter. Lived and painted in New Orleans in 1859 and 1860, having a studio at 170 Canal street.

HAROLD RUDOLPH: Had a studio as portrait, historical and genre painter in 1871 at 212 Carondelet street, and in 1874 at 106 Canal street. A few Louisiana landscapes show good composition and fine effects of color. No other records regarding this artist could be found.

PETER SCHMIDT: Born in Germany in 1822, died in New Orleans, April 28, 1867. Had a studio as portrait painter at 133 Royal street in 1860 and 1861, and at 82 Royal street in 1866. He was competent, but commonplace.

BROR ANDERS WIKSTROM: Wikstrom was born in Sweden, Province of Nerike, April 14, 1854; died in New York, April 26, 1909, whence he had gone to design the carnival of the Hudson-Fulton celebration. He came to New Orleans in 1883, was one of the organizers of the Artists Association in 1885, and taught in the school which that organization maintained; among the pupils being the well-known woman painter, Helen Turner. He painted landscapes and some genre, but it is as an interpreter of the sea that he will be chiefly remembered. He was the dean of the designers of New Orleans carnival pageantry.

Hugh Reinagle came to N.O. - 1830 died there in 1834. See - Dunlap.

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